D-198

File No.

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE
S. I. D. REGISTRY
No. I. O. D. 178
Date 3.5.29

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

C.I.D. Headquarters Station,
Date May 3rd 1929

REPORT

Subject (in full) The arrest of S. Watanabe and B. Esaki, blackmailers, by Hyogo Police.

Made by J.D.I. Nakagawa. *Forwarded by*

Sir,

With reference to an article appearing in the Osaka Mainichi of April 12, 1929, I beg to report acting under your instructions that Shikaichi Watanabe (37) and Bunshiro Esaki (35), formerly sailors aboard the Japanese freighter S.S. "Saisho Maru" of the Yamamoto Kisen Kaisha, Sannomiya, Kobe, Japan, irregularly calling at this port with shipment of cargoes, are unknown to either to the members of the C.I.D. or to the Japanese Consular Police.

Mr. S. Tajima, Chief of the Judicial Department of the local Japanese Consulate, has informed me that nothing is known in Shanghai about these blackmailers as he has no records of them and that no information has been obtained from the Hyogo Police with regard to their activities in Shanghai.

So far no traces of their smuggling any contraband goods to Shanghai could be found by us or by the Consular Police officials, although thorough enquiries have been made.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
S. Nakagawa
J.D.I.

Rca

A.C. (Political) a/D.C.I. information

3/5/29

Form No.
G. 2200c

THE OSAKA MAINICHI & THE TOKYO NICHI NICHI, OSAKA, FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 1929

Men Try to Blackmail Revolver Smugglers

Whole Gang Is Arrested by Hyogo Police

"Revolvers on sale in this house." "Agent for revolvers." "Let's fight it out!" Signs to the foregoing effect were put up day after day at the lodgings of Shikaichi Watanabe and Bunshiro Esaki, formerly sailors of the Yamashita Kisen's Shanghai liner [illegible] at the [illegible] public bath house, at Higashi-Kawasaki-machi, Kobe city, with the object of blackmailing these men.

Having known a number of smugglers of various articles while they were on the Shanghai run, Watanabe and Esaki [illegible] to start a new business of blackmailing these smugglers to get easy money some time ago, and they succeeded at snatching 20 revolvers valued at ¥2,000 on the street of Gochome, Higashi-Kawasaki-machi, on the night of March 10, this year, from a regular revolver smuggler Eutaro Obayashi when he was together with his wife transporting them in a wooden box to one of his comrades, Fujimoto.

Watanabe and Esaki stopped them on the street, and announcing themselves as detectives of the Aioi police station, and managed to get away with the wooden box containing the revolvers. Obayashi and his wife realized soon afterwards that they were robbed of their property and told of their loss to Misato Iwahashi and Isamu Yoshida, other men of their comrades. It dawned upon the last mentioned men that the robbery must have been done by the foregoing Watanabe and Esaki and they searched for their lodgings, and upon discovery, they started intimidating them.

Meantime, Iwahashi and Yoshida closely watched the movement of Watanabe and Esaki so that the latter were unable to go out of doors, until the Hyogo Prefectural police scented what was going on among them and effected a wholesale round-up on April 1.

Seven people involved in this case of smuggling, blackmailing, and counter intimidation are now under the police examination. It is now learned that Watanabe and Esaki have [illegible] about ¥10,000 worth of [illegible] and bullets which they [illegible] by means of similar tactics. [illegible]

III Insp. Nakagawa
Do we know them?
RCA
29/4

I
A.C.(Pol)
H.R. 29 4/29

H.R. II A/D.C.I.
Information.
JMG 29/4/29.